Social Security

Project ABLE

Able Beneficiaries' Link To Employers

What Is Project ABLE?

Project ABLE is a national resume bank that provides employers with an easily accessible applicant pool of qualified individuals who are ready, willing and very interested in working. The resume bank operates through the joint efforts of State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Social Security Administration (SSA) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The goal is to provide employers convenient access to quality human resources, while providing training and employment services to eligible people with disabilities.

Why Project ABLE?

A diverse workforce gives organizations a competitive advantage by enabling them to better meet the needs of their customers and hire from an expanded labor pool. People with disabilities are the nation's largest minority, yet many employers have indicated that they cannot always find candidates with disabilities when vacancies occur. Project ABLE provides that link. Further, various tax incentives are available to businesses that hire people with disabilities. You can learn more by contacting the IRS at 800-829-1040.

How Does The Program Operate?

Project ABLE is a data base of persons receiving Social Security disability benefits who are prepared and want to work. State certified VR and VA counselors evaluate potential candidates and make the initial determinations to verify their "job ready" status and basic qualifications for the chosen positions in the labor market. The counselors complete a simple enrollment worksheet, attach the candidate's resume and enter the data in the Project ABLE resume bank. Employers access Project ABLE by telephone, fax or e-mail to obtain the resumes of these highly motivated individuals.

How Can Job Seekers Enroll In Project ABLE?

Social Security beneficiaries who wish to enroll should contact their local VR or VA agency. Counselors will assess them to determine if they are ready for employment and enroll them. If a person is not ready for employment, the VR or VA agency may be able to offer training or other services that will help the individual prepare for work.

How Can Employers Access Project ABLE?

As vacancies occur, employers send a position description or job announcement to Project ABLE staff at OPM. After the matching process (usually within 24 hours), OPM will respond by forwarding the resumes of qualified individuals. Employers can initiate the process using the following options:

- Telephone: 757-441-3362
- Fax: 757-441-3374
- E-mail: projable@opm.gov

Federal employers can simply dial OPM's Automated Applicant Referral System at 912-757-3150. Project ABLE is worksheet Number 6. A valid agency identification code (ID) is needed to access the system. If you wish to gain access and do not have an ID, call 912-744-2085 at OPM.

For More Information

Contact SSA's Project Leader, Regina Sajauskas, 410-965-5381 or 410-966-6210 (TDD). Also, information on Project ABLE can be found on the Internet at: http:// www.ssa.gov/odhome/odderp/p_able.